

REMARKS

This communication is responsive to the Office Action mailed December 15, 2004.

The Examiner has indicated an objection to the drawings in the Office Action Summary. However, the Examiner does provide any detail as to what the objections to the drawing actually are, so the Applicant cannot take any corrective action to respond to the objections without further information.

In the Office Action, a number of the claims were found to either be allowable or to recite allowable subject matter. With regard to those claims objected to, but found to recite allowable subject matter, Applicant reserves the option to later rewrite those claims in independent form.

In the meantime, however, Applicant has amended base independent claim 1, and Applicant has similarly amended independent claims 63, 83 and 90. In particular, claim 1 now recites the feature of "wherein the information structures created or modified on the server include back references to the information structures specified by the application-generated structured data." Claims 63, 83 and 90 each recite a similar feature. This feature is described in the specification at, for example, the last paragraph of page 16. There, it is discussed that:

The structured data publishing system of the present invention thus provides a user the ability to import any document or file that contains structured data onto a web site and have that structure automatically expanded into a matching structure on the site itself. The system maintains back references to objects in the original structure so that if the original, application-specific file is modified, the data that is associated with that object on the website is also appropriately modified.

On page 15 of Applicant's specification, it is discussed that:

The system uses a meta-design that represents the hierarchy and interdependencies of the structure defined by the "original" data. A significant feature of the invention is that while the ApXML files may not be passed directly to the website, they define a meta-design object model. The meta-design object model, in turn, defines the website structure and the events that modify the website. The meta-design object model itself is persistent, and, among other advantages, enables the provision of back-references and "reconstructability" of the object model. Further information regarding such meta-designs can be found in Framework Technologies Corporation's U.S. Pat. No. 5,664,180, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

It is respectfully submitted that this feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by Thackston. That is, Thackston merely discloses that:

... the virtual environment provides data neutrality by maintaining part design models in a common, neutral format, and providing utilities so that users' specifications specialized part design model software formats do not present barriers to participation in a collaborative engineering effort.

Notably, Thackston does not disclose or suggest that "back references" are included in the common, neutral format. Furthermore, claims 91-94, dependent on claims 1, 63, 83 and 90,

respectively, have been added to recite modifying the structures on the server based on the application-specific data being modified.

In addition, a new independent claim 95 has been added. Claim 95 is similar to allowable claim 18 (i.e., before claim 1, on which it depends, is amended), but more broadly recites the “drop” target in the GUI image.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. As discussed above, Applicant reserves the option to later rewrite the allowable claims in independent form.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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